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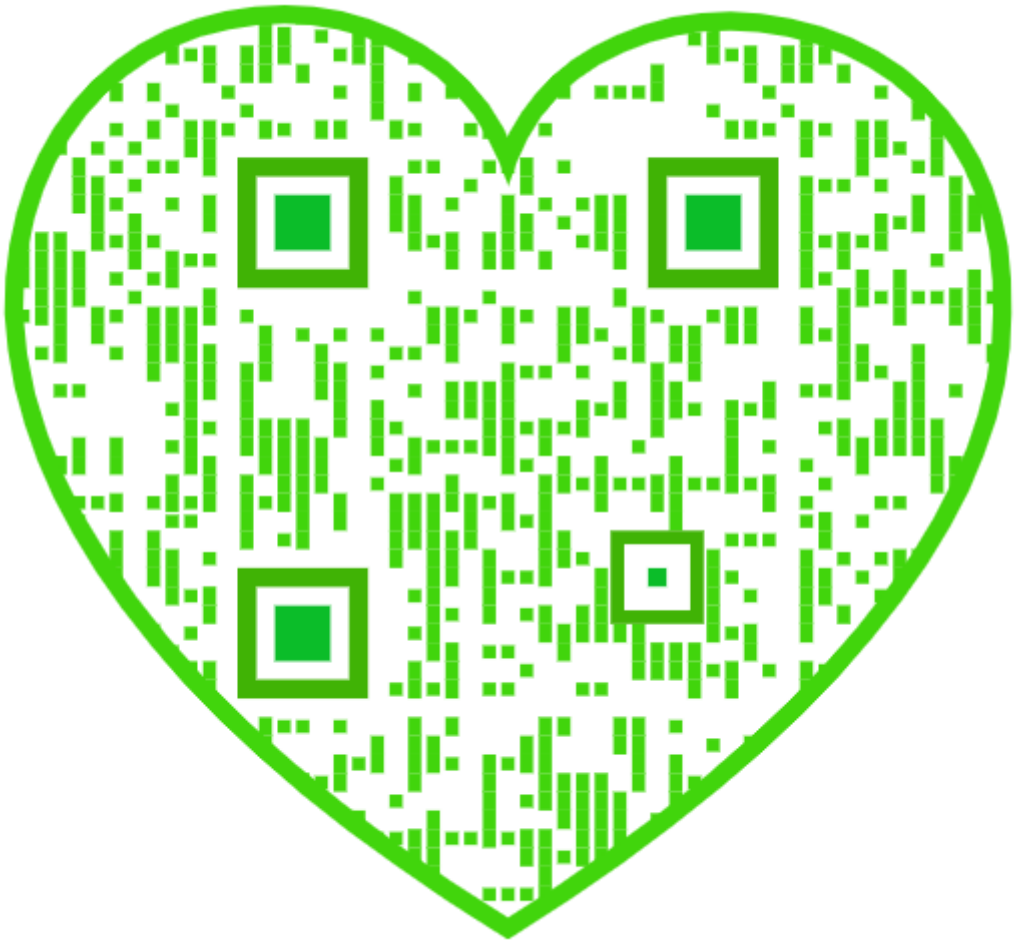

A RECORD

of the

Speech Sounds in Afrikaans

(as observed in Stellenbosch),

with

COMPARATIVE CHARTS

of

English and Afrikaans Sounds

(based on the above observations),

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AFRIKAANS VOWELS.

MOUTH.	TONGUE. Front	Mixed	Back	DIPTHONGS.	Other Combinations
HIGH Close.	(y) i		(u)	[iə] [uə] ; [ui]	[uiə]
Half-close	(ø) e	ɐ	(o)	[eə] [oə] ; [e·u] [o·i] [ou] [øə]	[e·uə] [ouə] [oiə]
Half-open	(œ) ɛ		(ɔ)	[ɛə] [œə] ; [œy] [ɔi] [ɔə] [ɛi]	[œyə] [ɔiə] [ɛiə]
Open LOW		a	ɑ:	[ɑə] ; [ɑ·i] [ɑi] [ɑu]	[ɑiə]

[y] High front, tense, rounded.
nuus [nys] *muur* [my·r] *ure* [y·rə]

[i] High front, tense.
sien [sin] *dier* [di·r] *vlië* [fli·ə] or [fli:]

[e] Half-close front, tense.
eet [eət] or [e·t], *reël* [re·əl] or [re:l].

[ø] Half-close front, tense, rounded.
seun [sø·n] or [seøn], *teuel* [tø·əl] or [tø:l].

[ɛ] Half-open front, tense.
dè [dɛ], *weg* [vɛx], *wêreld* [ve·rlt], *lêer* [lɛ·ər] or [lɛ:r].

[œ] Half-open front, tense, rounded.
put [pœt], *vurk* [fœrk], *brûe* [brœ:] or [brœ·ə].

[ɑ] Low, open, mixed; short tense, long slack.
dag [dɑx], *klaar* [klɑ·r], *hael* [hɑ:l] or [hɑ·əl].

[ɔ] Half-open, back, rounded; short tense, long slack.
nog [nɔx], *môre* [mɔ·rə], *trôe* [trɔ·ə]

[o] Half-close, back, rounded; tense, but slack in [ou].
boom [boəm] or [bo·m], *bome* [bo·mə], *voël* [fo·əl] or [fo:l].

[u] High, back, tense, rounded.
toe [tu], *boer* [bu·r], *koeël* [ku·əl] or [ku:l].

[ɐ] Half-close mixed tense, for *i* in accented syllables.
smid [smɐt], *wîe* [vɐ:] or [vɐ·ə] or [və:] (see note 5).

[ə] Half-closed mixed slack, for *i* and *e* in unaccented syllables.
vir [fər], *nodig* [ˈno·dəx], *lepel* [ˈle·pəl].

All Afrikaans vowels before n plus a consonant tend to become nasalized and are then half-lengthened:

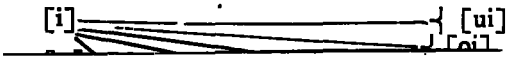
e.g. *gans* [xɑ̃·s], *mens* [mɛ̃·s], *kuns* [kœ̃·s], *ons* [ɔ̃·s], *eens* [ẽ:s], *konfyt* [kɔ̃·'feit], *beginners* [bə'xi̯nərs], *vrouens* [frouə̃·s], *tenminste* [tə̃·'mi̯·stə] *vanmore* [fɑ̃·'mɔ·rə]

In the combination, vowel + *nd* + vowel, the first vowel is usually nasalized in rapid speech, [n] is retained and [d] is dropped:

e.g. *tande* [tɑ̃·nə], *wonder* [vɔ̃·nər], *onkunde* ['ɔ̃·kœ̃·nə], *onder* [ɔ̃·nər] *eenders* [ẽ·nərs], *skinder* [skɛ̃·nər] or [skɛ̃nər], *hoender* [hũ·nər], *friende* [frĩ·nə].

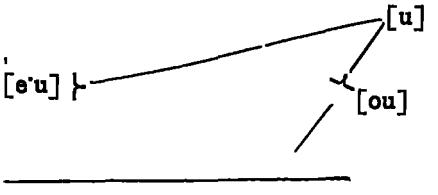
[-i] diphthongs:

[ui]	—*oei*	[kui]	*koei,*
[o·i]	—*ooi*	[ro·i]	*rooi,*
[ɔi]	—*oii*	[tɔi̯ɒs]	*toiings,*
[œy]	—*ui*	[mœys]	*muis,*
[ɑi]	—*ai*	[bɑiə]	*buie,* [tai] *taai*
[ɑ·i]	—*aai*	[frɑ·i]	*fraai,*
[ɛi]	—*ei*	[vɛi]	*wei,*
	—*y*	[rɛi]	*ry,*



[-u] diphthongs:

[e·u]	—*eeu*	[le·u]	*leeu,*
[ou]	—*ou*	[hout]	*hout,*
[ɑu]	*au!*		



ERRATA:

p. 2 and 6. for *vlië,* read *vlieë.*

p. 2. for [ve·rlt], read [vɛ·rlt];
for [re·el], read [re·əl].

p. 3. for [tai], read [tɑi̯]; for [kɔ̃·'feit], read [kɔ̃·'fɛit];
for [tə̃·'mi̯·stə], read [tə̃'mi̯·stə];
for [fɑ̃·'mɔ·rə], read [fə̃'mɔ·rə];
for [vɔ̃·nər], read [vɔ̃nər]. (The other nasalised vowels under this heading are also unaffected in length.)

p. 3. for *friende,* read *vriende.*

p. 5. for [hoəɒci] read [hɔəɒci].

p. 5 and 8. [f v] are Continuants, not Stops.

p. 6. for [a] A *nag* [nax], read [ɑ] A *nag* [nax].

p. 8. for [w] E [wil], read [w] E *will* [wil].

p. 2 and 6. for *dipthong* read *diphthong.*

Addendum:

p. 5. [t] *gids* [xɪts].

All Afrikaans vowels before n plus a consonant tend to become nasalized and are then half-lengthened:

e.g. *gans* [xɑ̃·s], *mens* [mɛ̃·s], *kuns* [kœ̃·s], *ons* [ɔ̃·s], *eens* [ẽ:s], *konfyt* [kɔ̃·'feit], *beginners* [bə'xi̯nərs], *vrouens* [frouẽ·s], *tenminste* [tɛ̃·'mi̯·stə] *vanmore* [fɑ̃·'mɔ·rə]

In the combination, vowel + *nd* + vowel, the first vowel is usually nasalized in rapid speech, [n] is retained and [d] is dropped:

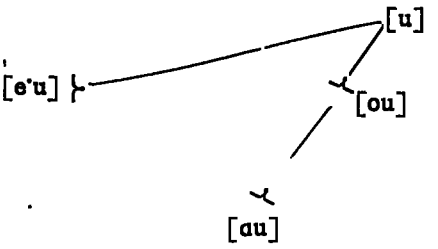
e.g. *tande* [tɑ̃·nə], *wonder* [vɔ̃·nər], *onkunde* ['ɔ̃·kœ̃·nə], *onder* [ɔ̃·nər] *eenders* [ẽ·nərs], *skinder* [skɪ̯·nər] or [skɛ̃nər], *hoender* [hũ·nər], *friende* [frĩ·nə].

[-i] diphthongs:

[ui] —*oei* [kui] *koei*,
[o·i] —*ooi* [ro·i] *rooi*,
[ɔi] —*oii* [tɔi ɣs] *toiings*,
[œy] —*ui* [mœys] *muis*,
[ɑi] —*ai* [bɑiə] *baie*, [tai] *taai*
[ɑ·i] —*aai* [frɑ·i] *fraai*,
[ɛi] —*ei* [vɛi] *wei*,
—*y* [rɛi] *ry*,

[-u] diphthongs:

[e·u] —*eeu* [le·u] *leeu*,
[ou] —*ou* [hout] *hout*,
[ɑu] *au!*



OTHER COMBINATIONS:

—*oue* [ouə] *moue* [mouə],
—*ooie* [oiə] *mooier* [moiər],
—*ôie* [ɔiə] *nôientjie* [nɔiəpci],
eeue [e·uə]
—*oeie* [uiə] *goeie* [xuiə]

—*aie* [ɑiə] *baie* [baiə]
—*eie* [ɛiə] *leier* [lɛiər]
—*ye* [ɛiə] *wyer* [vɛiər]
uie [œyə]

Afrikaans Vowels.

		TENSE			SLACK			
		Front	Mixed	Back	Front	Mixed	Back	
Rounded Lips	High	y m*uu*r *u*re		u v*oe*t			ù half-slack *au* bo*u*	
	Half close	⊥ø n*eu*s		⊥o b*o*me *o*o			o in [ou] h*ou*t	
	Half open	⊥œ p*u*t		⊥ɔ d*o*m			ɔ in [ɔi], t*oi*ings ɔ· m*o*re	
	Low							
Unrounded	High	i n*ie*t			ì half-slack k*oe*i			
	Half close	⊥e *ee*t r*e*de	⊥ɨ l*ï*t			ə g*e*will*ige*		
	Half open	⊥ɛ v*e*r						
	Low		⊥ɑ n*a*g			ɑ v*aa*l h*ae*l st*a*sie *au*		

⊥ denotes that the tongue is slightly raised from the normal position, ⊤ lowered, ⊣ fronted, ⊢ backed.

Afrikaans Consonants.

Manner	Lips	Lip-Teeth	Point Gum	Blade Gum	Front Palate	Back Palate	Uvular	Glottal	Organ
Stop	p b	f v	t d		c	k g		ʔ	
Continuant.	(w)		s	ʃ	ç j	x		h	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ			
Divided			l						
Trill				r			(ʀ)		

Voiced consonants are on the right, and breath consonants on the left of a column.

[p] *pad* [pɑt], *-b rib* [rɪp] [f] *af* [ɑf], *voet* [fut],
[b] *boek* [buk], [v] *w wiel* [vil].
[t] *toe* [tu], *-d tyd* [tɛit] [k] *kyk* [kɛ̄ik]
[d] *die* [di]; [g] *burger* [bœrgər], [g] *ghienie* ['gini]
[c] *tj tjalie* [cɑ·li], *dj. meidjie* [mɛici]; [ɲc] *ndj handjie* [hɑɲci]
[h] is breathed with the following written vowel sound or sounds,
e.g. *heil* [eil], but can be represented [hɛil].
[ʔ] denotes the forceful opening of the vocal chords before a vowel, and is rarely found in English; e.g. *een* [ʔeən].
[s] *sit* [sɪt], [ʃ] *sjef* [ʃɛf], [j] *jou* [jou], [x] *gaan* [xɑ·n] but [ç] is used for [x] before front vowels, e.g. *gieter* ['çitər].
[m] [n] man [mɑn], [ŋ] *sing* [sɪŋ].
[l] As in English a forward [l] is used before front vowels and a backward [l] before back vowels; e.g. *leer* [leər], *lood* [loət].
[r] is trilled; rus [rœs], *meer* [meər], but a burr [ʀ] used by some speakers is regarded as dialectal.
There is a tendency to insert [ə] or even [i] before the combinations, *-tjie* and *-djie;* e.g. *hondjie* [hɔ̄ɔ̄nci], *bootjie* [bɔ̄ici], *hoedjie* [huici].
[w] sometimes pronounced; e.g. *swart* [svɑrt] or [sv·ɑrt].

English and Afrikaans Vowels.

MOUTH.	TONGUE. Front.	Mixed.	Back.		English Dipthongs and other Combinations.
High Close.	(y) i ɪ̀ or ɪ		(u) (ʊ) or (ù)	tense slack	[ij]; [uw] [juw] [ɪə]; [ùə] [jùə]
Half-close.	(ø) e è	ɘ	(o)(o:) (o)	tense slack	[èi] [èɪə]; [où] [oùə]
Half-open.	(œ) ɛ əe	ɐ: ʌ	(ɔ) (ɔ)(ɔ:)	tense slack	[ɛə] [ɔì], [ɔìə], [ɔə]
Open Low.	a ą	ɑ: ɑ	ɒ: ɒ	tense slack	[aì] [aìə]; [aù] [aùə]

A = Afrikaans. E = English.

[y] A *nuut* [nyt] A *mure* [my·rə]
[i] A *Piet* [pit] A *vlië* [fli·ə]
[i] E *peat* [pijt] E *feet* [fijt] (see note 1.)
[ɪ][ɪ] E *bit* [bɪt] or [bìt] (see note 3.)
[ɘ] A *een* [ɘən] A *leër* [lɘ·ər]
[ø] A *neus* [nøəs] (see note 4)
[è] E *pen* [pèn] E *tread* [tɪèd]
[ɛ] E *there* [ðɛə]
[ɛ] A *dè* [dɛ], *weg* [vɛx] A *ver* [fɛ·r]
[œ] A *bus* [bœs] A *rûe* [rœ·ə]
[əe] E *sad* [səed]; [a] only occurs in English diphthongs (see page 7), but some Afrikaans speakers come near it in *swart* [svart].
[a] A *nag* [nax] A *haal* [hal] or [ha·l]
E *father* [fa·ðə] E *farther* [fɑ·ðə]
[ɒ] E *on* [ɒn] E *saw* [sɒ:] (see note 2.)
[ɔ] A *pot* [pɔt] tense; A *sôe* [sɔ·ə] long slack;
E *mourn, morn* [mɔ:n] } slack, long or short.
E *boy* [bɔi].

o] short slack, occurs only in diphthong [ou] in E. and A. (see below).

[o]	A *loöp* [loəp]	A *oë* [o·ə]
[ù] [ʊ]	E *push* [pù ʃ] or [pʊʃ]	E *good* [gùd]
[u]	E *food* [fuwd]	E *rude* [ruwd]
[u]	A *goed* [xut]	A *vroeër* [fru·ər]
[ụ]	for *i* in accented syllables	e.g. A *gewillig* [xə'vɪ̣ləx]
[ə]	for *i* and *e* in unaccented syllables	
[ə]	E *mother* [mʌðə] A *te* [tə]	E *bird* [bə:d]
[ʌ]	E *run* [rʌn]	E *young* [jʌŋ]

In Afrikaans diphthongs the stress is equal on each of the vowel components, except where one is longer then the other. To English ears an Afrikaans diphthong appears to have the stress on the second component, because English diphthongs are stressed on the first component.

For Afrikaans diphthongs, see p. 2.

English diphthongs and other combinations:

fear [fiə] poor [pùə] fewer [fjùə]

go [goù] mower [moùə]

day [dèì] prayer [prèìə]

there [ðɛə], door [dɒə], or [do:] or [dɒə]

oil [ɔìl] annoyer [ə'nɔìə]

fly [flaì], light [laìt] higher [haìə]

how [haù] hour [aùə]

deed [dijd] food [fuwd], brute [brɪuwt]

she [ʃij] few, due, you, [fjuw], [djuw], [juw]

English and Afrikaans Consonants.

Manner	Lips	Lip-teeth	Point-teeth	Point-gum	Blade-gum	Palate Front	Palate Back	Glottal	Organ
Stop	p b	f v		t d ɹ		c	k g	ʔ	
Continuant	ʍ w		θ ð	s ɹ z	ʃ ʒ	ç j	x	h	
Naśal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ		
Divided				l					
Trill					r				

[p] E *Pa* [*pa*:], A *Pa* [*pa*·] [f] E *fool* [fùl], A *faal* [fɑ·l], A *voet* [fut]

[b] E *bow* [boù], A *bou* [bou] [v] E *veal* [vijl], A *wit* [vɪt]

[t] E *two* [tuw], A *toe* [tu] [c] A *tjank* [cɑŋk]

[d] E *day* [dèì], A *doen* [dun] [ç] A *giet* [çit]

[k] E *cold* [koùld], A *kat* [kɑt] [x] A *glas* [xlɑs]

[g] E *give* [gìv], A *erger* [ɛrgər]; [m] [n] E *name* [nèìm], A *neem* [neəm]

[s] E *sing* [sìŋ], A *sing* [sɪŋ] [ɲ] A *kleintjie* [klɛiɲci]

[z] E *his* [hìz] [j] E *you* [juw], A *jou* [jou]

[θ] E *thorn* [θɔ:n] [ʃ] E *shove* [ʃʌv], A *sjef* [ʃɛf]

[ð] E *then* [ðèn] [ʒ] E *measure* [ˈmèʒə], E *zeal* [zijl]

[ɹ] E *dry* [dɹaì] [r] A *reg* [rɛx]

[ʍ] E *whence* [ʍens]

[w] E [*wil*]

[h] in English is breath expelled before a vowel, and in Afrikaans is breathed out with the vowel;

e.g. E *hang* [>æŋ], represented [hæŋ],

and A *hoog* [o͡ox], represented [hoəx].

NOTES:—

( ) denotes lip-rounding;

[:] a colon indicates that the preceding vowel is long,

[·] one dot indicates half length,

[ˊ] an acute accent is used before a stressed syllable, e.g. [ˊɛɒkəl].

1. In English phonetic readers [ij] is represented by [i:], and [uw] by [u:]; in these charts [i:] and [u:] are used for the pure Afrikaans sounds.

2. The narrow transcription [ɒ], long and short, is used for [ɔ] of English phonetic readers, and [ɔ] is retained for the more rounded half-open sound in Afrikaans and English, e.g.
English: long [lɒɒ], Afrikaans: bod [bɔt], E boy [bɔi],
law [lɒ:] môre [mɔ·rə]. E corn [kɔ:n].

3. [ˋ] The grave accent to denote laxity, used in narrow transcription, is retained for short English [ì], short English [ù] (unless these are written [ɪ] and [ʊ] respectively), and for English half-close [è], to distinguish them from Afrikaans sounds, [i], [u] and [e] respectively; but accents are omitted where no ambiguity arises.

4. Diphthongs ending in [ə], in the chart on page 1, are better described as having an off-glide [-ə].

   In the sounding of -eu, i.e. [ø·] or [eø], the latter script denotes that rounding of the lips is slightly delayed.

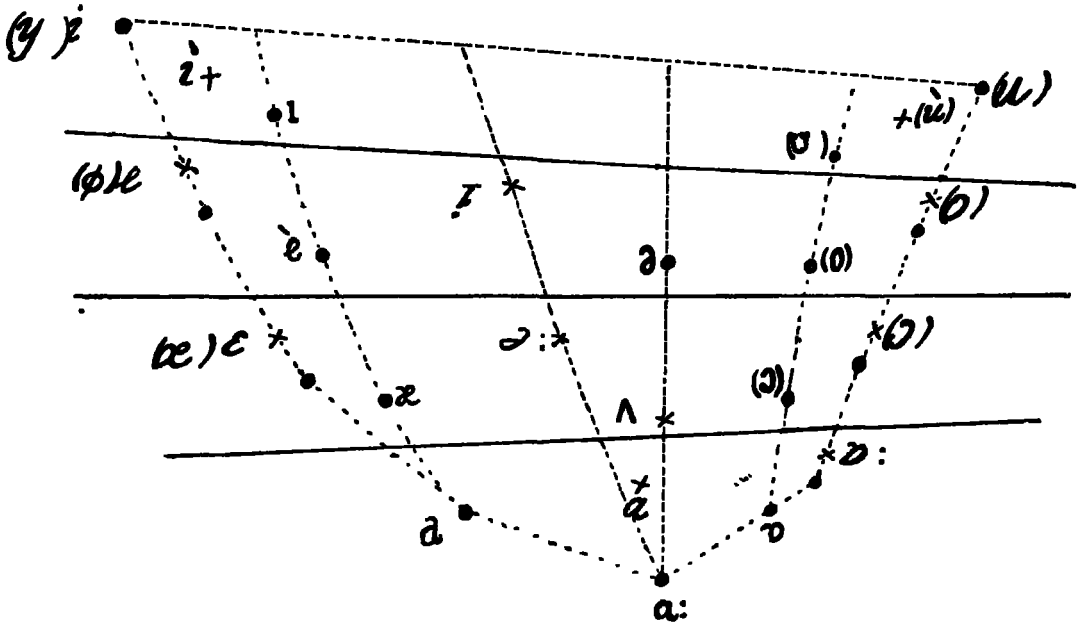
5. The symbols used are those of the Phonetic Association, with the exception of [ɨ], which is a raised tense form of slack [ə].

6. Some English speakers use [ɒ:] or [ɒə] for [ɔ:] or [ɔə], e.g. door [dɒə], born [bɒ:n], and in this case [ɒ:] can be regarded as an unrounded form of [ɔ:] and [ɒ] as lowered unrounded slack [ɔ].

English Vowels.

		TENSE			SLACK			
		Front	Mixed	Back	Front	Mixed	Back	
Rounded Lips	High			ù(w *who* half-slack			ʊ *good*	
	Half close						o in [ou] *go*	
	Half open						ɔ in [ɔi] *boy* ɔ: *forlorn*	
	Low							
Unrounded	High	ì(j *feel* half-slack			ɪ *bit*			
	Half close				è *pen*	ə *above*		
	Half open	⊥ɛ(ə *their*	⊥ə: *sir*		əe *ban*	ɪʌ *above*		
	Low			⊥ɒ: *lawn*	a in [ai] *ride* a in [au] *now*	a: *father*	ɒ *on*	

The Relative Positions of English and Afrikaans Vowel Sounds in the Mouth.



English vowels are printed in red, Afrikaans in blue, and vowels common to both languages in black.

Tense vowels are in italics, and slack vowels in romic.

It will be seen that several vowels are not in their normal positions. They are accurately represented as follows, (ꜛ indicates that the vowel is raised):

[ꜛø], [ꜛe], [ꜛœ], [ꜛɛ], [ꜛɒ:],

Afrikaans tense [ꜛɔ], Afrikaans tense [ꜛo].

[ɪ] and [ʊ] are the second component of Afrikaans diphthongs, and the first component of English [ɪj] and [ʊw], and are both half tense.

For purposes of phonetic script, the chart on page 6 is sufficient to bring out the differences in vowel sounds between Afrikaans and English.